



Monthly News Wrap – #01/January 2023

Making G20 Truly Inclusive - Permanent Seat for African Union

Right from the moment India assumed the presidency of the G20, it has consistently maintained that it will take the ‘Global South’, along in its quest to drive an agenda which is ‘Inclusive’, ‘Impactful’ and ‘Action Oriented’. Other G20 members have also argued for G20 to address concerns of the developing world.

The African Union (AU), which has representation of 55 countries, must be accorded a permanent place in major multilateral forums. While India has extended an invitation to the AU chair among other international invitees, the time has come to revamp the G20’s structure to make it ‘truly representative’.

India must support the AU’s efforts to become a permanent member of the G20 as the European Union (EU) is, While presiding over the G20 summit this year. AU may not be as integrated as EU but it is getting there by and by. To begin with, it is now implementing the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) which will create one single market in the whole continent.

As opposed to periodic participation of individual invitee states, the AU’s permanent presence would give a fillip to G20’s core understanding of concerns of the ‘Global South’. These first-hand insights that AU can bring will enable platforms like the G20 to design relevant policy solutions.

This would also be in line with the call by President Joe Biden of the US on the G20 to offer permanent membership to the AU, on the side-lines of the US-Africa Leaders’ Summit in December, 2022. The international community must make good on its posturing to accord Africa its rightful place in global decision making processes.

News/Op-ed	Key Takeaway
<p>G20 Presidency: Can India be the global south’s voice for climate finance? <i>Vibhuti Garg</i> The Economic Times December 23, 2022</p>	<p>Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) are being encouraged by the G20 to submit an update on the recommendations of the G20’s independent Capital Adequacy Frameworks (CAF) review in Spring 2023 on the sidelines of annual MDB meetings. This will be a key opportunity for India’s G20 presidency to drive climate-smart MDB reforms and ensure MDBs are willing to accept the recommendations, which include redefining risk appetite, revising the approach to callable capital and innovative techniques.</p>
<p>India’s G20 presidency hot topic in Chinese media. But Beijing won’t discuss LAC at the summit <i>Aadil Brar</i> The Print December 21, 2022</p>	<p>Beijing may seek a bargain for its participation at next year’s G20 meet by asking New Delhi not to discuss the border dispute. The Chinese State media commentary suggests that Beijing wants to stop the border dispute from being discussed at next year’s G20 Summit and stymie India’s rise in the UN Security Council. New Delhi’s cooperation, to highlighting that India has ‘ambitions to reshape the international order’.</p>

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<p>Sundar Pichai meets PM Modi: 'Look forward to supporting India's G20 presidency' <i>Shubhangi Gupta</i> Hindustan Times December 19, 2022</p>	<p>Google and Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai on December 19, 2022 met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and said he was looking forward to supporting India's G20 presidency to “advance an open, connected internet that works for all”. Modi and Pichai are seen sharing a light moment in the picture tweeted by the Indian-American business executive.</p>
<p>Hospitality industry set for buoyant 2023, cashes India's G20 presidency Business Standard December 19, 2022</p>	<p>The domestic hospitality industry is looking to 'fly' in 2023 cashing in on India's G20 presidency, having received the 'oxygen' to run in 2022 after being crippled in the past two years by the pandemic. Domestic travel, especially the leisure segment, gave wind to the industry this year and is expected to continue into the next.</p>
<p>'Setting Up Global Biofuel Alliance, An Objective Of G20 Presidency,' Says Hardeep Puri <i>Megha Rawat</i> RepublicWorld.Com December 16, 2022</p>	<p>At India’s flagship Energy Event in Bengaluru, Union Minister Hardeep Puri said India wants to set up International Biofuel Alliance under its G20 Presidency. Notably, the curtain raiser was attended by representatives of Global Energy Majors, leading Indian companies from Karnataka including from Energy, IT, financial companies, members of the international diplomatic community etc.</p>
<p>G20 under India can make concrete progress in debt relief, crypto, climate finance: Gita Gopinath The Hindu December 15, 2022</p>	<p>G20 under India can make concrete progress on three critical areas: debt relief, regulations of crypto currency and climate finance. International Monetary Fund’s First Deputy Managing Director Gita Gopinath said who is in India to participate in deliberations held as part of G-20 that internationally agreed standards of regulations had become necessary after the recent crypto meltdown.</p>
<p>G20 Summit in India: Day 2 of the Development Working Group meeting ends with talk on India's key priorities Money Control December 14, 2022</p>	<p>Substantive discussions on India’s key priorities proposed for the Development Working Group (DWG) agenda began on Day 2 of the 1st DWG Meeting in Mumbai on December 14. The DWG, one of 13 Working Groups under the G20 Sherpa Track, has been the custodian of the development agenda in the G20 since its inception in 2010. It was also one of the first WGs to be conceptualised after the 2008 financial crisis.</p>
<p>G20 Sherpa briefed the media on the G20 Development Working Group Meeting in Mumbai, Maharashtra from 13-16 December 2022 Press Release Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India December 12, 2022</p>	<p>G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant emphasised that the challenges the world faces today can only be solved by working together. Our priorities reflect not only the aspirations of G20 Members, but also of the Global South. India is pursuing an inclusive, ambitious, decisive and action-oriented approach. He recalled that a new workstream on Disaster Risk Reduction has been established under India's Presidency to encourage collective work, multi-disciplinary research and exchange of best practices on disaster risk reduction.</p>
<p>G20 Sherpa meet: A presidency with a show of culture and clear-cut agenda <i>Aanchal Magazine</i> The Indian Express December 11, 2022</p>	<p>Coming after the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war, the conscious stance has been taken towards the “unheard voices” of the Global South (Paywall) to ensure discussions on inclusive growth amid economic concerns of rising debt, runaway inflation and slowdown.</p>
<p>India could be the world’s third largest economy in next decade - its G20 leadership will be key: Maurice Obstfeld <i>Srijana Mitra Das</i> The Economic Times December 09, 2022</p>	<p>Maurice Obstfeld, former Chief Economist, IMF. "As G20 leader, India will have to forge unity on global problems including climate change, public health and financial stability - and it will have to navigate these crucial issues amidst tension between Russia and the rest of the world".</p>

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